

**Need to enhance EPF minimum pension**

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, once in a while, my name is coming in the draw of lots. Since only 20 Members are successful, kindly allow some more time to at least those who figure in the list.

Sir, I thank you very much for affording me this opportunity to raise the issue of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. I draw the attention of the Labour Minister, through you, to the grave irregularity and injustice shown to the poor workers of this country. I have been fighting this cause since 2014. Several representations, interventions and submissions were made in this House, but unfortunately, nothing positive is coming from the Labour Ministry.

On 04.11.2022, the Supreme Court gave a full-fledged judgement by virtue of which the employees are entitled to receive a higher pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme. Even after the lapse of two years, so far one per cent of the total persons, who have given the applications, has got higher pension in the State of Kerala. As per the media reports, only two per cent people have got higher pension. The total number of applications already submitted till August 7, 2024 is 17,48,775.

The EPFO has given higher pension only to 8,401 people. Kindly see that even after two years of the Supreme Court judgement, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is taking a very negative attitude towards the workers, and not giving higher pension. So, my submission is higher pension has to be given at the earliest.

Also, regarding the calculation of pension, a new method of calculation has been taken into account, that is, *pro rata* basis of allocation. It has been divided into two parts, that is, pension before 01.09.2014 and pension after 01.09.2014. It is against the Act; it is against the scheme; and it is against all norms. So, that has to be reconsidered.

The final point is regarding the minimum pension. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, I had given a Private Member Resolution. The whole House had unanimously consented to it and a recommendation has already been given. So far, the minimum pension has not been increased. So, I request for the enhancement of the minimum pension. These three issues have to be considered.